



<http://moviecitynews.com/tag/dennis-hopper-the-early-works/>

Dennis Hopper: The Early Works

When Dennis Hopper died last May 29, at 74, obituary writers had more than a half-century of movie titles from which to choose career highlights. As far as I know, none of the articles mentioned his appearances in the productions included in the interesting retrospective, *The Early Works*. Like most stars whose careers began after 1950, Hopper's earliest credits represented appearances on the small screen. The shows represented here are **Medic** (1955), in which Hopper played an epileptic; **Public Defender** (1955), in which he assumed the familiar role of juvenile delinquent; **The Loretta Young Show**, opposite the pig-tailed diva (1955); and, believe it or not, the 1964 "Bobbie Jo and the Beatnik" episode of **Petticoat Junction**.

The set also includes Hopper's first feature lead, in **Night Tide** (1961), a supernatural romance inspired by Edgar Allen Poe's **Annabelle Lee**. In the psycho-thriller, he played a sailor in love with a possibly murderous mermaid. There also are previews of **Key Witness**, another teen-crime drama, and **Night Tide**. In every role, Hopper's trademark mix of intensity and vulnerability is on full display. The shows probably were recorded from kinescope copies, so they aren't of the highest visual quality. They are fun to watch, though.

- Gary Dretzka